



A National  
Transportation  
Research  
Nonprofit

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## **Keeping Montana Moving Forward: Progress and Challenges in Achieving a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation System**

Accessibility is a critical factor in a state's quality of life and economic competitiveness. The ability of people and businesses to efficiently and safely access employment, customers, commerce, recreation, education and healthcare is critical to the development of a region and a state. Montana's quality of life and economic development depend on reliable, safe mobility. Montana will benefit from transportation improvements to enhance mobility and traffic safety.

TRIP's "Keeping Montana Moving Forward" report will examine the mobility, efficiency, condition and safety of the state's transportation system. Sources of information for the report will include the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Montana Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Where indicated, regional data will be provided for the Billings, Great Falls and Missoula urban areas.

### **Introduction**

- Importance of reliable, safe access
- Need for access to valued destinations
- Impact of 2017 HB 473
- COVID-19 impact on vehicle travel
- Impact of the IJJA

### **State Travel, Population and Economic Trends**

- Population trends and projected growth
- Travel trends
- Impact of COVID-19 on travel trends
- Economic trends

### **Road and Bridge Conditions**

- Statewide and regional pavement conditions
- Statewide and regional cost of driving on rough roads
- Statewide and regional bridge conditions

### **Transportation Safety**

- Statewide and rural fatalities and fatality rates
- Statewide cost of fatal and serious traffic crashes
- Importance of roadway safety improvements in reducing serious and fatal crashes

## **Transportation Challenges**

- Top 25 Montana Transportation Challenges, including needed projects to address preservation, safety, mobility and economic development.

## **Freight Transportation in Montana**

- Importance of reliable freight delivery for economic competitiveness
- Current and projected future freight volumes and values

## **Montana Transportation Funding**

- Impact of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- Impact of 2017 HB 473
- Transportation investment multiplier on economic output
- Transportation investment impact on job creation
- Impact of fuel efficiency and electric vehicle adoption on funding sustainability

## **Conclusion**

- The importance of improving conditions, accessibility, reliability and transportation safety to support Montana's future.